Jewish birth who worked at Toledo in the period after the capture of that city by the Christians was, as we have seen, Johannes Hispalensis, or John of Seville, whose Arabic name, Ibn Daud, was corrupted by the schoolmen into Avendeath. The most important of the compositions which were introduced to the Christian world by his means was a work of the Persian, Muhammad al-Kwarizmi[1] (fl. c. 830) on practical Indian arithmetic. In this, the so-called Arabic numerical notation is used for the first time in Latin literature—a milestone in the history of western culture. So fundamental was al-Kwarizmi's work that, for centuries, what we now call mathematics was known after him as "Algorism". Though it was not till the sixteenth century that the new method was completely acclimatised in Europe, it may be said that the whole of modern mathematics (and with it, a great part of modern science and philosophy), dates back to this translation from the Arabic, by a Jewish scholar, of a system first introduced to the Arabic world by a Jew.

Even before this period, mathematics had come under the influence of a very ancient Hebrew composition, *The Treatise of Measures,* ascribed to Rabbi Nehemiah and probably composed about A.D. 150. This remarkable work has many an original approach to mathematical problems, and exercised considerable influence on Arabic—and hence, mediaeval—science generally.

At approximately the same time as Indian mathematics, or a little later, Indian geometry also was introduced to the Latin world. The medium was in this case a work by a famous and devoted Jewish scholar and religious philosopher, Abraham bar Hiyya of Barcelona, or Savasorda (d. 1136), whose *Treatise on Geometry* was

[1] The town of Kwarizm is the modern Khiva.